



Dec 2016

Dear YTARC member,

Greetings and good tidings! Enclosed you will find a membership renewal form. Dues are still only \$20.00. Please continue to support *your* organization by renewing your membership. Your dues help maintain the club repeaters as well as other functions of the club. Please make an effort to come to the club meetings. A club cannot survive without active participation.

Meetings

Club meetings continue to be held on the first Tuesday of the month in the Baraboo EOC Meeting Room of the Baraboo City Services Building (450 Roundhouse Court). The meetings start at 7:00 pm sharp. The January, April, July, and October meeting nights will be combined with the Sauk County ARES/RACES group.

The meeting dates for 2017 are: Tuesday, Jan. 3rd / Feb. 7th / March 7th / April 4th / May 2nd / June 6th / July 11th / Aug. 1st / Sept. 5th / Oct. 3rd / Nov. 7th / and Dec. 5th.

In 2016, we gave away two portable radios as door prizes at two separate, randomly chosen meetings. At those two meetings, those (non-board) members in attendance were entered into a drawing and a winner was randomly selected. At one randomly chosen meeting, all (non-board) members in attendance received a free membership for the 2017 calendar year. In 2017 we plan to do some similar prize giveaways at random meetings so plan to attend as much as possible to increase your chances at receiving a great prize.

Following the close of the club meetings, we have had several presentations put on by members at various meetings throughout the year in which an area of interest in the the hobby has caught their attention. Recently, Dave Parker(WB9WHG) gave a presentation on antique Amateur radios and the technologies of Amateur gear in the 1920s and 1930s. He plans to do another presentation on current ham technology in the beginning parts of 2017 and give an overview of a Software-Defined Radio. Joe Mayenschein(WB9SBD) has plans to give a presentation on some recent upgrades to the N3FJP software package. If you have any ideas for, or would like to do a presentation at one of our meetings this year, please send an email to Tom at n9pqj@yellowthunder.org with your suggestions.

Field Day

Field Day was, again, a big hit. It was great to have families involved and kids on the air making those HF contacts. This year we had Joe's (WB9SBD) home-brew multi-band vertical HF antenna up as the main antenna for the operating efforts and made many contacts with it. We also moved up in the standings this year ahead of where we usually place for the "contest" portion of the weekend thanks to Dave Parker (WB9WHG) and Joe Mayenschein (WB9SBD) who made many contacts on CW and Aaron Diers (KC0WKP) and Dave Spearing (KB9CSW) who made a great number of contacts on digital modes like PSK31.

Sunday Night Net



Don't forget, on Sunday evenings, at 8:00pm, we have the "Sunday Night Net" on our analog repeater - 147.315. Steve (N9UDO) and Drew (KC9LJK) were able to work up an automated system through the repeater's Allstar computer which downloads and prepares the weekly versions of our choice of either the ARRL Audio News, Amateur Radio Newline, the RAIN Report, or even a custom audio file each week. After check-ins and announcements, we air the current edition of the chosen audio program.

Member Benefits:

Remember that the club owns an MFJ-259B antenna analyzer for all your antenna project needs. Members are able to check out the analyzer under the following guidelines:

- Don (k9jyx@yellowthunder.org) is the trustee for the analyzer. It can be checked out for a period of 2 weeks by club members only. The check-out can be renewed for 2 more weeks, at the discretion of Don (K9JYX).

The club also owns an Icom IC-718 HF radio, along with an LDG auto tuner for member use.

The radio was purchased for use during special event stations or other club activities, including Field Day. Club members holding general class licenses or higher can check these out for their use. We encourage our new general class holders to check out the radio and get on HF and see the fun in operating SSB and even working DX. A SSB filter has been installed so the radio will perform even better during receive operations. The same guidelines will apply to the HF rig as for the antenna analyzer.

Important dates:

- June 24th & 25th – Field Day, high atop the Baraboo bluffs at Owen Park, in Columbia County. Set-up and camping starts Friday night the 23rd.
- August 18th-19th-20th - The 54th annual Badger Steam & Gas Engine Club show
- August 26th – Twenty-first annual Circus City Swapfest at the Badger Steam & Gas Engine Show grounds, north of Baraboo
- September 5th – Nomination of club officers. Election to be held at October 3rd meeting

Zilch:

Zilch is typically held the last Sunday of each month at the Farm Kitchen restaurant (near the north shore entrance to Devil's Lake State Park) at 10:30am. All radio amateurs, their families, and their friends are invited.

Swapfest:

The Circus City Swapfest, held in August, was again a success. We would like to sincerely thank Brad Pointon of Pointon Communications in Baraboo for his donation of our grand prizes again this year. A great number of the vendor tables were sold and attendance was about the same as in past years. Our 2017 swapfest will be Saturday, August 26th at the Badger Steam and Gas Engine show grounds north of Baraboo. Be sure to mark your calendars. Tailgating will be available as well as another VE exam session.



Feedback on the venue was very positive again from last year's swapfest. This is a large venue and we need all the help we can get for setup and tear-down, as well as during the fest.

Repeaters

The club repeaters were on the air again this year as some of the premier repeaters for the area. The 147.315 repeater suffered a failure of the 100 watt amplifier and power supply in February .The machine also suffered a failure of the PC which was running the Allstar system in March. Our Technical Committee was able to get a new power supply and amplifier installed quickly and rebuild the Allstar PC from scratch on a new PC purchased by the club. The DStar repeater controller suffered a hardware failure of the RAID hard drive controller last year and is currently still running in a fallback mode for the time being. We invite all D-Star users from the area to make use of the D-Star repeater. For more information on the D-Star system, please visit our website at www.yellowthunder.org.

Website

We have been working on revamping the club website, updating the content, and adding some color and new design. We have moved to a Wordpress platform with the new site. Club member Aaron Diers (KC0WKP) got us rolling with the new platform and he and President Tom Harrison (N9PQJ) have been working on adding content and making updates and changes since the launch. The webhosting company has been making some server upgrades as of late, which will allow us to make some more significant progress on the site. If you have any Wordpress or web design experience and are interested in giving your input, please contact Tom at n9pqj@yellowthunder.org.

Remember that this is your club. You paid for the privilege to join, so your participation is needed and most welcome. An active club is a good club.

Wishing you a happy and safe new year,

Respectfully,

Your Yellow Thunder Board:

Tom Harrison, N9PQJ, President
Drew Smith, KC9LJK, V. President
Matt Noll, KC9UPE, Secretary
Don Evenson, K9JYX, Treasurer
Dave Spearing, KB9CSW, Member at Large